Tape Number 34-53-2-00

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Helen Lind (HL)

November 29, 2000

Honolulu, O'ahu

BY: Holly Yamada (HY)

HY: This is the second interview with Helen Lind. We're at her home in Kāhala. And it's November 29, 2000.

Okay, before we pick up where we left off last time, it's good to state your parents' full names and your name as well.

HL: My maiden name was Helen Mililani Yonge. And it's spelled Y-o-n-g-e in the Old English manner. My father was named Duke Yonge. And he was born in California. My mother's name was Heleualani Ewa Cathcart, born in the kingdom of Hawai'i.

HY: Okay. Also, I was thinking about what we were talking about last time. You had mentioned the neighborhood *kahuna*, and I was wondering if you folks made use of this person in terms of medicine or consultation?

HL: Some of them did. I know people went there to get his advice and, when somebody died, he chanted these soulful, doleful, oldies, twenty-four hours a day. And it would float over the neighborhood. But our family was not into that kind of stuff. We lived a *haole* life.

HY: But you were aware of this as something that the neighborhood . . .

HL: Oh yeah, and my mother pointed out to me there was a long rod, a stick over the door on the inside of his house. It was fastened to the wall. I think she called that the *kauila* stick. And that showed he was a *kahuna*, I suppose.

HY: I don't recall, did you mention his name?

HL: Kepano, his name was Kepano. I think that Frenchy DeSoto is from that family, but she wasn't in that particular place. But she was related to all these people.

HY: The other thing that you mentioned last time when you were talking about Saint Andrew's Priory and some of the ways that they disciplined students. I think you mentioned it off tape. Do you remember that story?

HL: Well, if you were a naughty girl, you couldn't go to devotions. That's what they went over to the cathedral for twice a day. You couldn't go in the afternoon. It was probably about five o'clock or thereabout. You had to sit out where everybody could see that you

had to stay home. That was one way. Another way was in the sewing room. Sewing was a big part of the instruction and there was all kinds of stuff going on. In the sewing room you had to sit under the table and pick up the pins (laughs) that fell down. Oh, and if you didn't eat your dinner, you had to stay at your table until you finished it. That's all I can remember.

HY: But you were disciplined in this way where you had to sit outside when they were doing devotions.

HL: Mm-hmm [yes].

HY: I think last time we left off with the beginning of UH. You graduated from high school. I'm wondering if you remember anything about the application process.

HL: No, I don't. I don't really.

HY: And you said that your—I believe it was your father—wanted you to go to college.

HL: Well, he said that I was going to go to school until I grew up. And, I suppose, the only other school—no, there were other commercial colleges. Yes, there were. Because some of my friends went.

HY: Do you know why they selected UH then?

HL: No, I don't.

HY: So the first year, your sister had already started UH. Is that right?

HL: My sister was there a year before me.

HY: And the first year you lived at home?

HL: Yes.

HY: Were you in Hale'iwa or Waipahu?

HL: Waipahu.

HY: So how did you folks go to UH then?

HL: Well, we drove back and forth.

HY: Was that kind of unusual to have a car?

HL: Yes, there was one road on the campus. It entered—one entrance, one end of it is now blocked off by Sinclair Library. It went in and around the back of Hawai'i Hall and then out onto University Avenue again. Behind Hawai'i Hall, in front Farrington [Hall], there were parking spaces. All the student and workers' cars, anybody there who had a car had plenty of room to park on that road.

HY: Not like today.

HL: Mm-hmm.

HY: Just a general question: What were your impressions of the campus when you first started going to school there? This is in 1931 right?

HL: Mm-hmm. Well, it was bigger than where I came from. It had more buildings.

HY: And how did you feel? Did you feel prepared to be in college with your education at Kamehameha?

HL: Fairly well, but in other things, very poorly in math. Almost no math whatsoever. I was ill prepared for that.

HY: You had to take math and science courses.

HL: Yes. Well, I had to really learn a lot of stuff.

HY: Did you do any outside tutoring to help you catch up?

HL: No, I just had to learn it on my own. I don't think there was any such thing as all this tutoring and everything.

HY: And what was your major?

HL: Home economics.

HY: Did you know you were going into home economics when you first started? How did you decide that?

HL: I think my parents decided that. My sister was in sociology. I think they decided that, too. I'm not sure.

HY: Your sister is Marguerite?

HL: Marguerite.

HY: So they selected your major for you, basically?

HL: I presume so. I don't remember having any kind of dream of being anything great in any particular line.

HY: Aside from the campus being bigger than you were used to, what did you think about the students there?

HL: Oh, there were many, many more students. Now at Kamehameha, at the girls' school, we had something like, I think it was something like 125 students. Because we each had a number, and we were numbered alphabetically. We gave the number when we go out on Saturday at the desk. When we came in, we checked in with the number, not the name. We were always at the end, the Ys at the end. I was always given a number that was either 115 or something like that. But at the university, I'm quite sure the attendance, the whole student body, numbered somewhere around 2,000. When I graduated, I remember

doing a survey. I think we had something like 250 in the [graduating] class. Now I understand they have thousands.

HY: So was that overwhelming to you? How did you adapt to that?

HL: It wasn't overwhelming. It was just some new experience. That was all.

HY: You mentioned last time you did have some classmates that also went with you to UH.

HL: Yes.

HY: Who were some of the people that you kept in touch with, that you stayed with throughout?

HL: Well, Ellen and Betty Whittington. Two sisters, Ellen older and Betty younger, were there. We were always very good friends and did many, many things together. Let's see, Janet Hopkins. But she only stayed one year. Then she went away to the Mainland, I think to Mills College. From the boys' school, in the same class, I'm quite sure, was Patrick Cockett. He's a cousin of mine, and he became a doctor. I'm not sure how long he stayed. I think they had an arrangement where they went into a medical school after about three years. So he went away. Don't remember any other (Kamehameha) classmates.

HY: What were the courses that you took that first year there?

HL: Well, there was chemistry and that was a struggle because it was also math. And microbiology. Everybody took English which was, I guess, writing. We did a lot of writing. They wanted me to take another science, and I wanted to take a language. So I reneged and did it my way and I took a year of Spanish, but I never had a time in the schedule to take another year.

HY: You said that you felt fairly well prepared in English?

HL: Yes.

HY: Do you remember who your teachers were?

HL: You mean at the university? Thomas Blake Clark was one of the English teachers. Wil[lard] Wilson was another. In the second year I took a number of courses, second and third year, from Sinclair, Gregg Sinclair, who later became the president [of UH]. He was excellent, just an excellent teacher. I mean he made the history of—he taught literature, not English writing, literature. I took English literature and then world literature and some kind of Asiatic literature. He made everything so real, so alive. You felt like you were a part of it. Later, I don't know how he got to be the president, but he later was chosen as the president of the university.

Oh, and every year there were art courses. I took every art course, and this was a part of home economics. Home economics was divided into household science and household art. The people who took the household art had different classes. They didn't have to take all that chemistry. I took chemistry for three or four years. Household art went more into clothing and that kind of stuff. The household science is now what is called food science and human nutrition. It dealt with food and nutrition. In those days, many of the students,

the Oriental students, came from immigrant parents, and they were not familiar with *haole* food and *haole* meals. They were quite familiar with lots of sugar and many things, but they weren't familiar with standards and things of nutrition. And even of cooking. So we had to teach cooking classes where we introduced nutrition and everything else into it.

I think a lot of the students I had when I was teaching had told me in fairly recent years when I'd been at affairs with them, that the courses that we taught helped them so much. One was the—she was a nurse. She's only recently deceased. The first year of nursing, she was sent out to Kohala Hospital. She had to plan the meals and do all that stuff. She said if she hadn't had this course, she never would have been very successful at it. She later became the head of the nursing staff at Kuakini [Hospital].

HY: Now did some of the courses incorporate the different types of ethnic foods that people eat in Hawai'i?

HL: Oh, yes. Yes, Miss [Carey] Miller who headed the home economics department had, when she came here, found that very little had been done to analyze oriental vegetables and other foods. So that's what she did. That helped her staff to teach classes—what ethnic foods to retain and what ones they could do without. Instead of using all *haole* foods—I mean here were families that served Coca Cola at dinner, at the table. Well, it was full of sugar. Or they used something else and tried to avoid tofu. Well, tofu was one of the biggest things we promoted. In the summer session they had an ethnic cooking class. And for years, in the summer session, when students came from the Mainland, they liked to take that class. They were always full.

HY: Now was this when you became a teacher? Or was this while you were a student they had the ethnic cooking class?

HL: No, no. That was after. Not while I was a student. I learned a lot, when I was a student, about the ethnic things. Given the summer session classes didn't come until later, I went back a couple of years, taught one of the laboratories in that class. It taught people, Japanese, typical Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, I guess, and Hawaiian. I don't think there was anything else. I'm not sure. Oh, Samoan too.

HY: I know you lived at home during that first year and then you commuted. Did you also work during that time? Or were you just devoted to being a student then?

HL: I was just a student.

HY: The other thing I wanted to ask you about is that beginning year. Do you remember anything about the orientation process? My understanding is that they helped young freshmen to sort of get orientated to the school.

HL: No.

HY: No.

HL: I don't think there was much attention paid to that kind of thing.

HY: Okay. What about social life?

HL: Well, they had dances. The first year when we drove back and forth we couldn't do any of the evening things but after we moved into the city, then we did a lot of the evening things, which were going to the basketball games. They always had a dance or something afterwards, you know, in the evening. They had organizations that had parties or meetings and things. I couldn't join a lot of things because my laboratories took up too much of the afternoons when they were having meetings. But as for social life, I don't think—I think the emphasis was on teaching people and there were very little emphasis on the inability of the student to adjust. I think it was assumed that if you were going to go you knew what you were doing.

HY: The home economics department was located in Hawai'i Hall.

HL: At Hawai'i Hall, second floor, Waikīkī end. We had only one laboratory and a big dining room, and then the offices were nearby.

HY: So after that first year then you moved to Mānoa. Maybe you can explain what your living circumstances were there.

HL: Oh, my mother had friends who lived in Mānoa in an old house. All the old houses had servants quarters. And they had a servants quarters that needed fixing up. So they rejuvenated it. My sister and I lived there. We rented it. It was within walking distance. It was on East Mānoa Road. In fact, everything was walking distance. It didn't matter if you were way way up the end of O'ahu Avenue, it was walking distance. We walked everywhere. Even at night.

HY: What was the family that you stayed with then?

HL: Mrs. [Marie] Brown who was the principal of Mānoa School. She had a very illustrious part-Hawaiian background.

HY: This is the Brown family?

HL: Not the I'i Brown [family]. She was—I've forgotten what her maiden name was, but this was another family.

HY: Did you stay there for the rest of your UH career?

HL: Yes. Oh wait, wait. We were at the Brown's. Then we moved, I guess, it was after that. Now, during the time when I was a student, we were at the Brown's. It was kind of interesting. Oh, what was the man's name? Bartlett, Charles Bartlett, who was a famous painter. He painted in the Orient and he painted here. The Brown's had a cottage besides the servants quarters, and the cottage was rented out to two old maid sisters of Charles Bartlett, the artist. They had beautiful, beautiful paintings. That's what I remember. I eventually acquired two Bartlett paintings and I gave them to my son and daughter-in-law. They were his Japanese paintings.

HY: I want to ask you more about the instructors that you had. You mentioned Sinclair. And you had told me earlier that Carey Miller was your main influence.

HL: When the university was the College of Hawai'i and it started in 1907, it was a land grant college. They always had agriculture, mechanics or they were combined. They always

had home economics. All land grant colleges had this. So there were classes in home economics. But when it became a university—when was it, 1921. (The home economics department) sort of floundered around. There were more attention given to other departments. So when Miss Miller came, she must have come around 192[2], she is the one that really set it up and made it a scientific department. She brought the rats with her for her laboratory experiments. She [got involved in] in the community, giving talks here and there, promoting good health. You know, it hasn't been a very popular subject, food and that, until just in fairly recent years or so. Maybe fifteen years. Before that, you didn't have all these books on fitness and food. Every time people asked me what I majored in and I said home economics, they sort of dismissed it like saying it was inferior. Then all of a sudden in my old age, I'm the big shot that has all the nutrition information (chuckles).

HY: You say she brought her rats with her.

HL: Yes.

HY: Now there was some story about the rats and the dining room or something.

HL: I don't know when they built—there was a little cottage. I guess it's still there. Behind Miller Hall, is there still a little-one story cottage? Looks like someone's home? Well, I don't know when that was built but it was there when I went to the university.

HY: Yeah, there is a small structure there [referring to the Fruit Fly Laboratory, built in 1931, currently called Building 37].

HL: And maybe before that, she had to have it up in Hawai'i Hall, upstairs there some place. But then . . .

HY: But those were where the labs were? In that small structure?

HL: Yes, yes. And from her one cage of rats, and I don't know how much she brought, she had hundreds of rats. When we were juniors and seniors we did experiments feeding and analyzing, experiments using rats. Nobody told me that when I was finished with the experiment I had to operate on them. Then you, depending on what it is you're investigating, you had to cut the rat open and see what happened.

HY: What about some of the other instructors?

HL: Well, I loved the art department. There was Huc[-Mazelet] Luquiens. I think he was the head of it. And then later years, not real early, let me see. I've forgotten. The names are not coming back to me. But Ben Norris came. I don't think he was there in 1930. He was there later, and he became quite prominent in the art field here. There were excellent teachers whose names I have forgotten.

HY: Now my assumption is that the students that were in home economics at that time were women. Is that true?

HL: Yes. I don't think we had a man until—when I was teaching there I had a man student. He was going to go into medicine. Miss Miller had tried so hard to get them, the people signing up students for the pre-med course, to take nutrition. Because when they get into

medical school, they weren't getting anything in nutrition. Now, you know, they insist that they have some.

HY: She was ahead of her time.

HL: Yeah, she was. She was way ahead of her time. She had a running battle correspondence with baby food, Gerber's and these others, and asking them not to put the additives into their packaged baby food. They had all kinds of things. You know, there's sugar and salts and other things and preservatives. What she wanted to do was to get them to quit putting the sugar in them. That was the main thing. They had their local representatives go and sort of pat her on the head. Oh, and another thing was she wanted the additives out of Campbell's Chicken Noodle Soup. She made a survey of the stores and found that that was the best selling canned soup. She decided that there were many elderly people, especially, using that. It's got too many additives in it. She had a running battle with them. Six years after she retired—six or seven years maybe—is when I noticed on the shelves, no-salt soup. They didn't do anything all the time she was writing to them. Oh, and the baby food business, she wrote and asked them—they said, "These products that we have packaged are the ones selected by the taste panels." She wrote back and said, "Who's on your taste panels? Are they babies?" No they had adults determining what babies should have. Now, you go and you can buy no-sugar, no-salt, no this, all in the baby food. She was way ahead of her time.

HY: Well, I'm wondering what the relationship was like between students and teachers. You know, the formality of it, whether they established friendships outside of the class room. That sort of thing. How would you characterize?

HL: Well, I think it was quite personal. I knew a lot of the instructors when I was a student. It was easy access between the two. The classes were not that big. I think maybe, let's see, when I was teaching we had maybe 150 students in the biggest, biggest class that we had. Most of the classes were smaller. [Gregg] Sinclair always had a very large class. I don't know how many in it. Then there was a man. I've forgotten his name—is it [Merton] Cameron who taught economics? Everybody liked him. I think there was a casual relationship between the two. Easy to go and talk to them.

HY: What about socializing? Did students socialize with faculty?

HL: I really don't know. I don't remember. When you're talking about socializing, you're talking about maybe at the dances or something like that?

HY: Just doing maybe activities outside the classroom where you might have parties or functions.

HL: I don't know.

HY: Okay.

HL: I think of the people that I knew and got to know more later when I was on the staff, I don't think they were socializing with the students. But the campus was small. The road that went in and around the back of Hawai'i Hall, there was Farrington Hall on one side, the 'Ewa side and [old] Gilmore Hall on one side. The rest of it, right from there up through the area of the East-West Center, was a pasture for the cattle. There was a dairy

up there where the East-West Center is. That was the farm for the agriculture department. It's kind of interesting. I once listed all the names of the buildings, and this was some time ago, they got new buildings now. I had known every one of those people that the buildings were named for, except [John Washington] Gilmore. I never knew Gilmore. What is to me real sad, is that they had—well, Mr. [Walter] Frear doesn't have [a building named after him]—Mrs. [Mary Dillingham] Frear has a building named for her, dormitory. They always claimed that Frear, because he was important in the community, that they give him the honor of being the father, sort of, of the university. He and a bunch of other colleagues. But you know, it was Mr. [William Kwai Fong]Yap, or Zane?

HY: Yap.

HL: Yap, from Kaimukī who was the one working on that, working on that and working it. He and William [J. Huelani] Coelho, who was a legislator from Hāna, was the one who introduced the bill into the legislature. [Coelho introduced the bills to start up the College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts of the Territory of Hawai'i in 1907, which later became the College of Hawai'i. Yap petitioned the legislature to expand the college to a university.] And there isn't a single thing named for them. All the others are *haole*s that came from some place else. But the local people never get named anything, except now they have that Japanese Dr . . . .

HY: [Kenichi] Watanabe?

HL: In front of the HSPA [Hawai'i Sugar Planters Association], that building.

HY: There's Sakamaki?

HL: Yeah, they got him [Shunzo Sakamaki]. But the real old-timers, they don't have anything for. Realizing that, when Miss Miller—they can't name buildings for people who are still on the staff. You have to be retired. And realizing that there wasn't anything named for these two important people, I wrote a letter to the Board of Regents asking them to consider the new home economics building—it wasn't new, it had been there about almost twenty years, fifteen years, at least—named for Miss Miller. And they did. They named it for Miss Miller.

HY: Did you run into any resistance for that?

HL: No, no. In fact, I didn't hear anything, except they sent a letter of acknowledgement, receipt of what I had asked for. There used to be a Coelho Road. It was where faculty housing was. Now when you go in from the Dole Street side, where the, you know, the gate there. You turn left and go down there. All of that used to be faculty housing. One of those streets was named Coelho. But they did away with that street. So now there is no Coelho. Then they tore down the Gilmore Hall and put the Art Building there. See, in my day there was Gartley Hall. That was the first one when you entered by what is now Sinclair Library. There was Dean Hall. There was Hawai'i Hall. Gilmore Hall, the agriculture. Farrington Hall and I guess that's gone now. There was a cottage, a one-story cottage and it was offices, I think, on the *mauka* side next to Farrington Hall. There was another building, George Hall. The last building was a library. [George Hall was originally named the Library Building.] On the opposite side of the driveway was a one-story building, which was, I guess, the student union building and cafeteria combined. That's where the cafeteria was. That's about all there was. Oh, no, no, no. There was a

gym. The gym was down in front of what is now Bachman Hall, closer to University Avenue. All the years that I was there, the roof leaked. (Laughs) They had buckets all over the roof. It was terrible. The amphitheater was built. It was completed in the year I graduated [1935]. Because the first graduation ceremony was to be held there. It was our year. But it poured, poured, poured, heavy rain. So we had it in the leaky gym.

HY: Well, let me ask you about the demographics of the home economic students. They were all girls, all women. What about the ethnicity?

HL: I've never looked up the ethnic make up of the university population, student population. But it seems to me that the greatest number were Japanese. There were some Chinese, quite a few Chinese. Miss Miller was fond of—she just adored the ancient Hawaiian, his lifestyle and all that. He was an agriculturalist and a conservationist. He ate good food, and he had a terrific physique. She was always interested in having more students, Hawaiian students, students with Hawaiian ancestry, but there were very few. I can't remember. Betty Whittington was in home economics with me. And Aluli, Irmgard [Farden] Aluli. Irmgard Farden was about two years ahead of me, I think. She was in home economics. But I don't remember very many others who had any Hawaiian . . .

HY: I'm going to turn the tape over.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

HY: Okay. I noticed you were also involved in swimming when you were a student at UH.

HL: Mm-hmm.

HY: Can you talk about how you got involved in swimming?

HL: Well, we just hung around the tank a lot. One year, without any training or anything, Coach [Theodore] "Pump" Searle came one day to the swimming tank and he said, "You and you and you and you are going to go to the Punahou meet tonight and we're going to swim in the city meet tonight. Eat lunch but don't eat after that." He was giving us these instructions. "And be at the Punahou tank," at whatever time it was. I understood at the time, this was the first time that any—there had always been a university swimming team and a few people in it, but this was the first time they had a women's swimming team formed to compete in citywide swimming meets. We weren't much older than many of the high school students. So that's who we competed with. That year we, I've forgotten, did we win, or did we tie for the first place? But we all had metals. Someplace I have a medal. So in the yearbook we're pictured sitting on the diving board. The four swimmers and one or two divers. Two divers, I think.

HY: Did you do diving as well?

HL: No, no. I have always had inner ear trouble. And you know, I get car sick and air sick, and sea sick. Diving would have—it bothered me. I didn't do any diving.

HY: Do you know why he selected you folks?

HL: Well, I guess he was always watching to see who was swimming there all the time.

HY: Were you swimming there just as something to do recreationally?

HL: Yes, yes. Just something to do. We never trained or anything. There wasn't any kind of training.

HY: Was that something students did? Hang around the pool area?

HL: There was a whole bunch of us used to hang around the pool area.

HY: It was social. So after that first meet, did you then begin training after?

HL: No, no. We never did anymore. (Laughs) I don't know why, but we never entered any other meet. At least I don't remember any other meets. You know, the university started last year or a couple of years ago an organization, a club of former athletic emblem–what do you call them? The letter.

HY: Letter.

HL: Letter, a lettermen's club. I was kidding and I said to Ian [HL's son], "I wonder if I should call up and join the club. Because we had letters." We were given leather jackets with H, a green H. The men had a big H. And we had a smaller H with a flying fish through it.

HY: Do you still have it?

HL: Oh, no. That was seventy years ago. No.

HY: So did you continue swimming though? Not competing, but did you continue?

HL: Well, sometimes when I went with a group, an organization, some group or something, I acted as a lifeguard. Like we would go to Kokokahi to have a meeting and spend the day, I would act as lifeguard. But I didn't do anything else.

HY: What about other activities? You were obviously in the home ec[onomics] club. Can you talk about what kinds of things you did as a club member?

HL: I don't know if it was once a month or maybe only four or five times a year that they had a regular program, and this was done by the students. This wasn't done by the staff. We had dinners from different countries. We studied like what they eat in Norway and how to cook it. We would go to the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] downtown. They had a kitchen where you could work and you could prepare the food and serve it. This was just for club members. The next time maybe it would be Japanese or maybe some other time it would be some other nationality. We all learned how to cook the food of that different country. And (Mary,) Mrs. (Richard) Sia, was one of the first home economic graduates at the university, and she had put out Chinese cookbooks. She came once when we had a Chinese dinner. She came to the cooking session. So we all learned how. But one year, and this was just after I graduated, when I was teaching, we had a *lū'au*. And one of our students was Mrs. (Myrtle (Bechert) Castle). She was the wife of this man (Northrup Castle). They had a big, big home up in Pacific Heights, I think it

was. My mother got a man from the country to come and help us. He dug the hole for the pig, the *imu*, and we all pitched in. We had made *kālua* pig and all the other food. We had a great big *lū'au*. That was one year. I think it was about 1937.

HY: What else did the home ec club do—activities?

HL: I guess that was about all. I don't think we did much else.

HY: Did you also study the fruits, the produce that comes out of Hawai'i? Did you do scientific analysis on those types of foods?

HL: Miss Miller had started doing that [for a] long, long time. She had been here about—let's see. She was here about 1925, maybe '22 or '25. I entered in 1931. She had already analyzed things, foods.

HY: So was that something you studied as a student?

HL: Yes.

HY: You didn't do research in that area? It was her own research?

HL: She had in her lectures, in her classes, nutrition classes. She had a lot of reading. We had to do studies on different countries, especially Asiatic countries. We did a lot of reading of Japanese foods and Chinese foods and how they compared with things locally. I did a lot of collecting of recipes for some of the publications that the Department of Agriculture put out, this is the U.S. now, Department of Agriculture. She was also the nutritionist for the Department of Agriculture.

HY: Federal.

HL: Yes, yes. So some of those publications, I did a lot of collecting of recipes. I knew more local people and eating local foods than anybody else in the department. Like my mother arranged with a Filipino woman, who had told what she was going to cook that day. I bought all the food and took it out to Waipahu, and I sat there while she's cooking. And you know, they don't measure with spoons and that, just measure by picking up. So I would guess at the amounts. I sat there and wrote the recipes. And I went to a woman in Lā'ie, a Samoan woman, and she cooked Samoan food.

HY: You would observe and write down what you . . .

HL: While the woman is cooking I was making the recipes. I was guessing, one half cup of coconut milk.

HY: You did that as a student or when you were on the faculty?

HL: Both. I did that as a student and later as [faculty].

HY: That's interesting. You were also in Hui Po'okela, which was an honors . . .

HL: I don't remember doing very much in that. That was another one that they were always having the meetings in the afternoon. And you know, my labs went up until four o' clock. So I never could go to very many of the meetings. I don't even remember what they

talked about. Mostly it was like a business meeting that I went to, I guess. I don't really remember. I'm going to turn my burner off. I smell it.

HY: Okay.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

HL: What I remember so vividly was the May Day. We always had a May Day celebration. And we had a play. Each year, somebody wrote a play. And they had singing, sort of like an opera, the sort of talking and the singing. That's when I joined the—they asked for volunteers to do the hula. So a whole bunch of us—oh, maybe twenty-five or thirty people. I don't really remember how many, but quite a few. We learned a hula, different hulas for this program. See, I had never seen a hula, in my early years, that is a public performance. You just didn't because the missionary people were still ruling us. So I never learned the hula. I have friends who say the same thing that when you told your parents or the older members of the family that you wanted to learn the hula they said, "No. You are the audience. You don't do this." They had this old missionary thing about how vulgar the movements were. So I joined that. And one year Iolani Luahine taught us. Nani Espinda, who was another very experienced hula dancer. These are all young people, students at the time, I guess, in upper grades who taught us. So that always stands out in my memory.

HY: Was that something you continued each May Day then, while you were a student? Did you perform?

HL: Yeah, I think, I'm not sure whether I joined the first year or waited until the second year, but anyway, every year I volunteered. It was always an outdoor pageant. There was lots of singing and dancing. I remember there was one year Mrs. Frear, who was a writer, she wrote poetry and stuff, wrote the pageant. It was a very nice pageant and the words to the songs were all *haole* words. Not Hawaiian words.

HY: What were the subjects of the pageants?

HL: The only thing I can remember is that when Betty Whittington came out with her *kīkepa*—you know, the blue tapa—and met with I think it was Billy [William] Howell and then somebody sang. I think he did. The person she was meeting on the stage sang, "Come hither you in your sky-blue *pā'ū* and we'll *lele koali* together." That's jump rope with the vine that grows on the beach, the morning-glory. That was about the only thing I really remember. They usually had a queen who sat on the big chair that didn't do anything. But that was what seemed to me to be the big highlight.

HY: I'm curious about the relationship between the home ec department and agriculture, if there was any kind of relationship there.

HL: The home ec department is in the College of Tropical and Agriculture [formerly College of Applied Science]. It's a part of that college.

HY: Right. I guess when you do analysis on produce or you use it for cooking or whatever, did you obtain produce from that department? What kind of relationship was there? I know it was the same [college]. But—I don't know how to say it—what kind of relationship existed?

HL: Well, the students, we did have social functions with them, the boys in agriculture department. Sometimes we had with the boys in the engineering department, because they were all in the same college. But Miss Miller got stuff from the [University] Farm when she wanted to analyze. But for most of the cooking classes we bought everything.

HY: Oh, I see. Okay. But for analysis she would use UH?

HL: Whenever she could get from the farm.

HY: Did she also do analysis on the meats?

HL: I don't think so. See, meats have always been in the literature. But Chinese cabbage and *ume* and all this stuff was not then in the literature. You couldn't find the nutrition value of this, pick up a book and find it.

HY: Right, right. Were there other activities that you were involved in, clubs that I didn't mention?

HL: No, I guess not. There really wasn't much for a student to—organizations, organized things, programs for students, there really wasn't.

HY: What about student government and politics on campus? Were you involved or aware of . . .

HL: I wasn't involved. I knew people in it. But I was never involved in it. That kind of thing, I can't say it didn't appeal to me, I guess I wasn't the public kind of person.

HY: Well, you mentioned the [UH] president during the time you were there, [David] Crawford. Did you have a sense of the students' relationship to that administration? Or was that not something you thought about?

HL: We didn't know about that. We didn't know about any of these things until the—I mean, I didn't know about a lot of these things that had happened until I read something in later years. But remember there was a man named [Koji]Ariyoshi—not the governor—who was a big protester. He was one of these people they were always after. They were saying he was a Communist. He was very public about it.

HY: Oliver Lee later.

HL: No, that's later. I'm talking about like before and during World War II. He was the one from whom I learned—his writings I learned about Crawford. He wrote columns. He had a column. Or he wrote, occasionally, articles for one of the newspapers. Then he came back and he had a florist shop in Waikīkī.

HY: Were your parents your financial support during this time? Or did you also have scholarships or jobs?

HL: There weren't very many scholarships. In fact, I can't remember any scholarships. Nowadays if you want to go to the school, you just get the list of scholarships that are available and you apply, and maybe you'll get one. There was no such thing then, not that we knew about. There was a loan fund. There were a couple of city loan funds. But that's

all. They had some jobs in the different departments, student jobs in different departments that were based on family economics.

HY: Based on [financial] need.

HL: It was one of these federal programs, you know. I don't know what it was. But like the WPA [Works Progress Administration] and all these things that were supposed to be helping, give jobs to people. Well, that's what this was all about. But no, my parents paid for it.

HY: Maybe I'll ask you about dating during that time. Just what social life and dating was like back then. I know you had dances.

HL: We went to the dances as a group. You know, like six or eight girls. When we got there, there'd be—I never had a date until, I must have been, I guess it was after I graduated. I never had a date. We did things together.

HY: You did things as a group.

HL: Yes.

HY: Was that pretty common?

HL: I really don't know. No, there were some people who were always together, couples. We knew which ones they were. But I guess in the group that I was in, we weren't interested in them. Let's see, when was Prohibition repealed? Was it 1934? [Prohibition was repealed December 5, 1933.]

HY: Yeah, so I think [it was] one year before you graduated?

HL: I remember the day the news was that Prohibition had been repealed. Two friends, boy friends they were, men friends. They weren't our steady friends. They were just in the group. They came on the bus up to Mānoa to our house and brought a bottle of beer (laughs).

HY: A legal bottle.

HL: I don't know where they got it, but it was kind of funny. Lloyd Pruett was a friend. He was a nice person. If you wanted to go someplace and you wanted an escort, you'd call up Lloyd and say, "Come on now, we going to go." So one time we were all together, a bunch of us. I don't know why Lloyd needed to change his clothes or to get a coat or something. So we had to take him home. That's when I found out my good friend Lloyd Pruett was the brother of Mrs. [Elizabeth Pruett Farrington, who was married to Joseph Farrington, son of] Governor [Wallace] Farrington. (Laughs) I had no idea who he was before that except that he was a good friend on the campus.

HY: Well, who were some of the students that were kind of leaders during your times that you may remember?

HL: I guess, it didn't impress me that much (chuckles).

HY: Fair enough.

HL: If I had a yearbook or something I could look in it and find something. We used to watch the informal football games on the field. I guess right there, behind where—the whole area where Sinclair Library is. That was a big field there. One of our very, very good friends, he was always with us doing things. I can't even remember his name (Kanderson). He was injured and he died. He was taken to the hospital and he died. It was just a horrible thing.

HY: Was this during the game?

HL: Yeah, playing on the field. He was injured in the game. I guess he fell and struck his head. I'm not sure just what, but he died. There was another person who died. Was it John Dominis? It seems to me it was a Dominis boy. You know, related to Queen Lili'uokalani's husband [John Owen Dominis]. He died. I don't know what he died of. But I remember going to the funeral, the services. It was at the governor's home. But I can't remember all the people.

HY: Did you go to the games also at the Old Stadium Park?

HL: Oh yes, yes. We went to the games and it was always hot and tiring. I'm not a game fiend. They don't interest me that much. I don't even know—I know more about football than baseball.

HY: It seems like almost everybody went to the football games back then.

HL: Well, there weren't too many things to do. So most of our recreational things as I remember growing up, even into adulthood, were hiking in the mountains, swimming at the beaches and that kind of thing. Nature things. In the city it was going to the football games.

HY: Well, since you mentioned it, were there students that were drinking? Either before or after Prohibition? Were you aware of that as a social activity?

HL: I don't know. I don't think there was much drinking. Yes, they had. I remember going with someone to a place down about where the—what is that restaurant by Daiei, [formerly] Holiday Mart, what's that big hotel?

HY: Oh, you mean by Ala Moana?

HL: No, no, right near Daiei. About two blocks.

HY: Oh, Pagoda [Hotel & Terrace].

HL: Yeah, the Pagoda. Down in that area, that was all a swampy area and there were few houses. I remember somebody going there and knocking on the door and giving the password and being able to buy a bottle of booze. (Chuckles) That must have been during Prohibition. But I don't think there was much drinking before then.

HY: So you talked about your relationship will Carey Miller. She was instrumental in having you join the faculty.

HL: Yes.

HY: Can you talk about how that happened?

HL: Well, she I guess, she liked achievers, academic achievers. I had very good grades, so she was always sort of pushing me, urging me on. And her admiration of the Hawaiian, the ancient Hawaiian was part of it. We became friends. She was going into a partnership with Queen's Hospital with the Department of Health for the public health nurses. She needed someone who was very familiar with all the local foods. So she asked me. She gave me the job. We became quite good friends. We had some things that we were both interested in. We were both stamp collectors. In her retirement she used to have dinner once a month and we'd go and pour over our stamp things. And we both raised orchids. She was very good with all her chemistry, you know, the fertilizers and everything. She was very good in raising miniature orchids. So it just went on and on. Then when she got to be about seventy, sixty-five to seventy, and she no longer felt secure driving in heavy traffic, I would go and take her places. When she had guests–she had a guest that came every year from New Zealand and stayed here for the summer. She was the teacher of geography in a college in Christchurch. So Miss Miller would always have something special and it was always on another island. I would go with them and I was the driver. We went to Lāna'i, and we went to Kaua'i. We went all over. Different places. So then in her real old age, when she got to be like, getting down to around eighty, and her housemate—they had lived together and bought this house together and been together all these years, not as in a sexual sense. This was a way for two people to own a home. Miss [Ada] Erwin was a teacher of home economics at Punahou. Around 1980 it was, I guess. Miss Erwin, she had been on the planning commission for Pohai Nani. They had a reservation. When they wanted to go, they were going to go to Pohai Nani. Miss Erwin wanted to go and Miss Miller didn't. So Miss Erwin just moved out. So I had to go there almost every day. And finally she had little strokes and things. She kind of had to go. She was spending more money having more nurses and everything. So she had to go to Pohai Nani. She was there five and a half years. Miss Erwin died in a couple of years. And Miss Miller survived.I went every Tuesday with my brown bag lunch and had lunch with her every Tuesday.

HY: When you graduated from UH, did you think that you would find a career in home economics or what was your thinking about career and your future at that time? I know you just kind of moved right into this job.

HL: Yeah, I was. She actually hired me or asked me before graduation.

HY: Oh, I see.

HL: So this was all set before. You must remember that this was in the years of depression. There weren't many jobs. A lot of people who were trained in one field had to go and do something else. Some of the home economic people were given teaching jobs in preschool or kindergarten or first grade, because there was a lot of child care and child psychology in the home economics program. So when they couldn't find home economics jobs, they had early education jobs.

HY: Now, did you have training as a home economics major in childhood education?

HL: Oh yeah. We had lots of it, child psychology. We visited the Castle Kindergarten and preschool thing. And oh, the home economics department every year rented a home in Mānoa. The students, the seniors, usually five or about six people, went for each semester. They lived there, and they planned their meals and cooked. They ran a household is what they did. And you rotated jobs from one thing to another. You were a cook, you were a house cleaner, or you were the laundry person. It's like running a family home.

HY: So it was sort of like a practice home.

HL: It was a practice house.

HY: I see.

HL: And one of the teachers lived with you. Now, Miss [Katherine] Basore, who later became Mrs. Gruelle, she was unattached so she usually ran the house, lived in the house with the girls.

HY: Now, did you do this as well, even though you had your cottage and servant's quarters in Mānoa?

HL: Oh yeah, yeah. I had to. You got credits for this. Something like four or five credits. One of the interesting things people don't really know about is that every year the university published a catalog. It was a catalog of classes like they have now. That part wasn't very big. But then the rest of the catalog was every student was listed. Every grade, every department, and after your name, you had the number of credits that you had completed and the number of grade points. So everybody knew who was smart and who was dumb. (Chuckles) There was public record. I don't know when they quit doing that. But I had a lot of those early year catalogs, directories, and they were there. Number of grade points.

HY: Now, this house in Mānoa that was rented, was it the same house?

HL: No, no. It was every year they had a different house.

HY: Oh, I see.

HL: I'm not sure if they at anytime had maybe two years in a row. I don't think so. The one I stayed in was on O'ahu Avenue.

HY: Is it still there?

HL: I haven't even looked.

HY: This is a good time to stop. We're almost at the end of the tape.

END OF INTERVIEW